

INCOMING TELEGRAM

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FROM: Paris

Mr. Secretary of State

NO: 5353, March 5, 5 p.m.

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EXCON

Re Moscow econ conf.

Ger del (Kroll) raised this subj COCOM yesterday, suggesting PC views and attitudes be coordinated. Stated all govts doubtless receive requests from businessmen re participation in conf, and suggested common position be developed in order avoid possibility some PCs might appear attach some importance to conf (owing number of businessmen attending) while others appear negative. Said FEDREP has discouraged, but not (rpt not) prevented private participation, believing conf not (rpt not) "economic", but mere camouflage for Sov propaganda. Thought COCOM shld take interest in matter because (A) one of purposes of conf is to weaken western security control and (B) may be possible glean useful intelligence re Sov production situation from businessmen who participate. Offered provide comite with any useful info FEDREP receives.

UK and French dels, without commenting on use of COCOM as forum to concert PC views, stated their govts were not (rpt not) sending official dels, were discouraging participation by private business and stressing propaganda aspect, but were not (rpt not) preventing private attendance. UK del stated wld ask govt whether useful exchange views in COCOM after conf on results from intelligence viewpoint.

Belg, Neth and Ital dels unaware position their govts, but stated they wld request official views and inform COCOM.

US del stated understood US views similar to those expressed by UK and French.

Den del at early stage interposed objection. COCOM discussion of this subj, as being outside comite terms of ref. Belg and Ital delts opposed Den view emphasizing relation to security controls. Ital del pointed out off record that Den itself had suggested

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-2- #5353, March 5, 5 p.m., from Paris.

desirability of concerting views in NATO at time preparatory
mtg for Moscow conf was held in Copenhagen. US:del opposed Den
jurisdictional view on gen grounds.

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